

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 14 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 13 has been canceled to obviate an objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), and in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the elements recited in Claims 2 and 4 into independent Claim 1. Claim 15 and Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. Applicants hereby reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of original Claim 1 in a subsequently filed continuation application. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,638,286 to Burbank et al. ("Burbank") and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burbank. Claims 4-6 were also objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed above, Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the elements of Claims 2 and 4 into Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and Claims 3, 5-12 and 14 which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 are allowable and in condition for allowance.

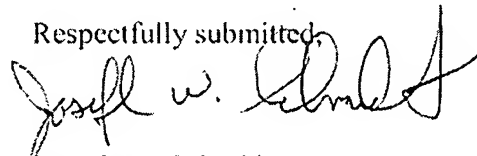
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in this application, namely Claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 14, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney

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at the number indicated below.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 19-0254. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 19-0254 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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